



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Second Preparatory Seminar for the 13th Economic Forum

As delivered by Political Counselor Bruce Connuck
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 3, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Swiecicki for your comprehensive report.

I want to take this opportunity as well to thank Kazakhstan for hosting the Second Preparatory Seminar, and to thank the organizers for putting on an event that was perfectly planned and executed, and substantively rich.

The seminar in Almaty, which addressed the economic, environmental and security aspects of migration, was a fitting follow on to the first seminar which helped us understand the demographic trends that prompt migration.

All participating States are dealing with population shifts and migration in some fashion. The Almaty seminar was particularly useful for highlighting the range of factors that can prompt migration and practical ways states and regions have dealt with population flows.

In our view, the seminar not only illustrated the usefulness of the Economic and Environmental Dimension in tackling broad issues that effect economies and security, but it also underscored the importance of fundamental OSCE values and commitments.

Migration represents to some extent a failure of home countries to create sufficient employment opportunities within the overall constraints or opportunities of the global economy or to create a political climate where citizens can envision a promising future for themselves and their families. This failure at home underpins the "brain drain" that states often lament.

OSCE fundamentals, such as democratization, tolerance and human rights, market economies freedom of the media, independent judiciaries, professional, community based policing, good governance and transparency, to name but a few, consistently emerge as the solutions to whatever "new" issue the OSCE is addressing, be it integrating minorities, counter-terrorism, racism and xenophobia, creating conditions conducive to investment, or migration.

By focusing on the basics, and ensuring the highest possible standard of implementation of OSCE principles and commitments, we can maximize the effectiveness of the OSCE's unique cross-dimensional approach to security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.